

NEWSLETTER

THE URBAN LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY

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THE MARGARET CHUBB PARSONS BUILDING -- LEAGUE HOMES

December 15, 1971, the building housing the administrative office of the Urban League of Essex County was dedicated the MARGARET CHUBB PARSONS BUILDING. The plaque representing this dedication was installed on the left entrance wall of the foyer:



Margaret Chubb Parsons, for whom the building was named, is one of three children and the only daughter of the late Hendon Chubb who founded the Victoria Foundation. She was married at an early age to J. Russell Parsons, a businessman for whom she bore three daughters. She is a grandmother of fourteen children; a Trustee and Vice President of the Foundation established by her father; a Trustee and member of long standing of the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Essex County.

The dedicatorial address was given by Mrs. Tina Bohannon who said: "This day is a historic occasion for the Urban League of Essex County. This is an experience made possible by a great humanitarian and civic worker."

Mrs. Bohannon further said: "Throughout the years Mrs. Parsons has shown herself to be a woman of courage, humility, and integrity, as well as one of great personal charm. Her outstanding work in Essex County Urban League and many other agencies in Essex County has contributed to interracial growth and harmony. Her humanitarian sympathies and inspiring efforts have enabled the Urban League to carry on many successful projects in Essex County. Her work with the Victoria Foundation has been heralded all over the country as very unique. She has also made an outstanding contribution as a member of Board of Directors of the Kate-Macy Ladd Foundation.

"In appreciation of the contribution made by the Victoria Foundation, of which

she is Vice President, and through her strong support of our need for an adequate building in Essex County, we the members of the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Essex County extend to Mrs. Parsons and the Victoria Foundation our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for this beautiful building."

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#### PREVIOUS HOMES OF THE LEAGUE

William M. Ashby, the first Executive Director of the Urban League of Essex County, informed us the first office of the League in 1917 was located on the first floor of 249 Mulberry Street Newark. The building was owned by the Children's Aid Society, which let the League have the office space rent free. That building stood on what is now the rear parking lot of the present Post Office site.

In October 1918, the League purchased its first home--a four story brick building at 212 Bank Street. The first floor was used for office space and the second, third and fourth floors were rented to unattached females sponsored by the Phyllis Wheatley Club which became a part of the League. The opening took place January 20, 1919.

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During the year 1929, with the passing of a City Ordinance, that portion of Bank Street housing the League office was renamed Market Street and the League address became 58 Market Street. At that time the Executive Director was Thomas Puryear.

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Harold A. Lett became the Executive Director of the League in 1934, serving in this capacity until 1945. In 1942 he secured the volunteer services of a group of women who met informally for the purpose of raising funds for the League.

This group was formally organized in 1945 as the Urban League Guild and, according to Dr. Lett, it was the Guild which raised the necessary funds to pay

off the mortgage on 58 Market Street and enable the League to purchase its new home at 58 Jones Street, Newark. The 58 Market Street property was sold.

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The 58 Jones Street property was purchased in October 1949 and dedicated in 1950 under George Robinson, Executive Director from 1945 to 1954. The building was completely remodeled before the League moved in and it remained the main office of the League until April 1, 1970.

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From 1954 to July 1970, James A. Pawley was Executive Director of the Urban League of Essex County. During this period the strong friendship and interest in the work of the League by Mrs. Parsons began to develop and grow.

During 1967 to 1970, additional offices were maintained in Montclair, East Orange and Jersey City as well as project offices in Newark. Faced with the need to expand operations and to find newer facilities, James Pawley, with the approval of the Board, approached the business community and from that contact raised the money for the down payment on the 508 Central Avenue property. The old building was leased and the League moved into its new home on the first of April, 1970 under the benevolence of Mrs. Parsons and Victoria Foundation.

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August 1, 1970, Earl Phillips became the Executive Director of the Urban League of Essex County. Under his leadership the 58 Jones Street property now houses the offices of the Urban League's Housing Department and Health Department.

Referring to the work Mrs. Parsons has done in other areas of Newark, Phillips stated, "...this dedication will serve not only as a remembrance of what Mrs. Parsons has done for the Urban League, but as a monument also to the work she has done in the community of Newark and for her sincere interest and dedication in helping her fellow man."

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The following pictures were taken at the dedication -- compliments of PSE&G



Mrs. Margaret Chubb Parsons,  
the honoree.

William M. Ashby, the first  
Executive Director of the  
Urban League of Essex County.

Mrs. Tina Bohannon, Board  
Member and Dedication Speaker.

Mrs. Parsons with Earl  
Phillips, President of  
the Urban League of  
Essex County, who made  
a special presentation  
from the Board and Staff.





Mrs. Parsons

William H. Blakely, Jr.,  
Chairman of the Board of the  
Urban League of Essex County.

Earl Phillips, President

Mrs. Tina Bohannon

Among the many guests witnessing the dedication ceremony were Mrs. Franklin Parker and her son, Tom Parker--Mrs. Parsons' daughter and grandson (not pictured)

Mrs. Parsons

Mrs. Hendon Chubb, step-mother of Mrs. Parsons and very active at age 98.

Howard Quirk, Executive Director of the Victoria Foundation.





Also pictured at the dedication of the League building, left to right are:

Robert H. Franklin, general manager, Area Development  
and Urban Affairs, Public Service Electric & Gas Company

John Maguire, director, Employment Department, Public Service  
Electric & Gas Co., and Urban League Board Member

William H. Blakely, Jr., Chairman of the Board, ULEC

Joseph E. Partenheimer, Board Member and Trustee, ULEC

John Griffith, director, Equal Opportunity Activities and  
Urban Affairs, PSE&G, and Urban League Board Member  
Vice Chairman

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With the closing words of Mrs. Bohannon, "Finally, in grateful appreciation of Mrs. Parsons' vision, love and service, we dedicate this building to the ministry of meeting human need, as far as the power and influence of our personalities and possessions, our time and talents, our lives and love, can reach," the MARGARET CHUBB PARSONS BUILDING was sincerely and impressively dedicated.

Clarissa Chapin,  
Director of Public Affairs  
Urban League of Essex County